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Title : Need to provide Central assistance to the Football Academies helping them to produce quality-players of international standard.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (DURGAPUR): Football has been one of the popular games in India since long. But we have to still carve a niche in the arena of world football. Now in terms of FIFA ranking, India stands at 127th position. It is not a matter of pride for our country having vast population and resources. There is no dearth of talent in our country. What we have to do at this moment is to search those talents with genuine efforts and groom them properly with modern concept in world football. This can be made possible by setting up a number of football academies in our country.

In our country, Mohan Bhagan Athletic Club has become a pioneer in establishing such a kind of Football Academy sensing the long felt need to search talent from different parts of our country and turn them into players of international standards by providing them proper training and facilities. Mohan Bagan Athletic Club, alongwith infrastructural assistance from Durgapur Steel Plant, has established Mohan Bagan SAIL Football Academy of Durgapur.

At present, there are ten clubs who participate in Group 'A' level National League and if all these national clubs show their readiness to establish such kind of Football Academy, there will be no dearth of standard players in our country in near future and India can certainly dream of participating in World Cup Football 2014.

This task will involve huge expenditure which comes to around Rs. 30-40 lakh per year for each such Academy and it can only be possible if Central Government and All India Football Federation come forward with monetary assistance.

I urge upon the Union Government to consider monetary assistance to those Academies who are going to produce world standard players.